

Central Intelligence Agency



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16 FEB 1982

Dr. Gregory Grossman
 Department of Economics
 University of California
 Berkeley, CA. 94720

Dear Dr. Grossman,

Mr. Casey asked me to respond to your note of January 29, 1982, associating yourself with the letter Drs. Abraham S. Becker and Arnold L. Horelick sent to the Director. As the Director explained to them in his response of January 20, 1982, our decision to curtail release to the public of unclassified CIA reports was made only after careful consideration of the points they raised in their letter of January 4.

Both the Director and I believe that strengthening public understanding and professional knowledge of national security issues--although a laudable goal--is not one of the missions of the CIA. Secondly, while we obviously are concerned about the morale of Agency analysts, we seek (and have) analysts who consider themselves intelligence professionals first rather than econometricians, political scientists, or academicians. Finally, I do not believe that the quality of our research and analysis is significantly impaired because of our decision. Indeed, our capabilities are enhanced by not having to devote considerable resources to preparing and defending unclassified analysis. Moreover, we are working aggressively to avoid isolation through expanded and more frequent contact with outside experts like yourself, Abe Becker and Arnold Horelick.

On balance, the Director decided that the risks inherent in public release of intelligence reports--the threat to intelligence sources and methods, the resulting disappearance of certain open sources of information, the threat to our own objectivity, the potential for political controversy and diplomatic embarrassment, the reluctance of other intelligence services to cooperate in the face of such openness and the resource costs--outweighed the possible benefits which Abe and Arnold described. We, therefore, decided to halt the release of unclassified analytic studies. Unclassified statistical and factual compilations are still available from the Agency, however, through the Document Expediting Project of the Library of Congress and the National Technical Information Service of the Department of Commerce.

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In closing, let me assure you that both the Director and I favor expanded Agency contacts with the outside professional community and greater participation by Agency employees in professional meetings as well as Agency sponsorship of Conferences, Seminars and informal contacts--both to expose our analysis to the test of external scrutiny and to help rebuild the shrunken academic base of Agency analysts. I look forward to continuing cooperation with you, Messrs Becker and Horelick, and similar outside experts in this vitally important endeavor.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box with a black border, used to redact the signature of Robert M. Gates.

Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence

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